

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 85

By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to
comprehensively study Tennessee's public
higher education system.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's public higher education system has long been in need of
comprehensive study; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of millions of dollars are directly appropriated each year for public
higher education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, several hundred millions of dollars are indirectly appropriated for use each
year by the Tennessee Lottery fund for Hope scholarships; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are in need of a comprehensive
study of all issues surrounding the entry of Tennessee's system of public higher education into
the twenty-first century; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to conduct a
comprehensive study of the public higher education system in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of nineteen (19)
members, to be apportioned in the following manner:

- (1) Three (3) members of the house of representatives and three (3) members of
the senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers; and
- (2) Three (3) members to be appointed by the governor; and
- (3) Two (2) members to be appointed by the Tennessee board of regents, two (2)
members to be appointed by the University of Tennessee's board of trust, and two
(2) members to be appointed by the Tennessee higher education commission; and

(4) The commissioner of education, the president of the University of Tennessee, the chairman of the Tennessee board of regents, and the executive director of the Tennessee higher education commission, each of whom shall be a voting member of the committee by virtue of that person's office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in making these appointments, the speakers, the governor, and all other appointing authorities shall give due consideration to the appointment of such representatives of racial and ethnic minorities as will ensure meaningful representation of the viewpoints from these communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 105th General Assembly no later than January 10, 2008, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.